

ABSTRACT

THESIS: From Germany to America: A Comparative Study of Small Town German Vernacular
Architecture in the Midwest

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During the mid-nineteenth century, German immigrants flooded the shores of the United States and a great number of these immigrants settled in the Midwestern states. Throughout the Midwest, one can find many small communities that bear witness to a German foundation and influence. The architecture of these towns is similar, but differs widely for various reasons, including the area where the settlers originated, the way each town was founded, the way in which the town was laid out, the landscape, the location of the town, other architectural influences, the town's economy and the local materials were available. This thesis studies two small towns in particular to identify the similarities and differences in style and detail and to try to find out what influenced the building styles of the settlers. I have chosen Maestown, Illinois, and Hermann, Missouri, as towns for my study since both are known for being distinctly German in heritage.